

# NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - DRUMOCHTER

Judges: Mrs A Johnson and Mr D Elliot

by kind permission of Lady Eira Nickson and Mr A. Finlay. Sponsored by Skinners Dog Food Ltd.

## Date:

Wednesday 16th August 2017

## Weather conditions:

Weather conditions were overcast, breezy with occasional showers and chilly.

## Scenting conditions:

The scenting conditions were good.

## Type of ground, quantity and species of game:

The trial was run on open heather moorland and there was the perfect amount of game for a novice trial.

## General standard of work and handling:

The general standard of work was at a good level.

It is always difficult to achieve the right balance of allowing your dog's natural ability to shine without suppressing it or indeed over encouraging it. I felt that some dogs were held back when the ground and scenting conditions allowed them to be more free running while others covered a little too much ground in the search for game.

## Results:

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Rollenwood Magheralin of Riffmuir</b>	GSP	A Learmonth
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Tournesol Jinja</b>	Brit	M Hirst
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Culdrein Annys</b>	HWV	R Buchan
4 <sup>th</sup>	Not Awarded		

## Judges Critique:

### Rollenwood Magheralin of Riffmuir

First Run - Before this dog was cast off a covey of grouse lifted forward and to the left of the waiting handler. Moments later the dog was cast off on a cheek wind but soon returned to the area where the first covey of the day lifted and came on point, the handler continued and was rewarded with a few birds remaining in the area from the previous covey. A single bird was shot, the dog was steady and made a good job of marking and delivering the bird to hand. The dog was asked to hunt on again which it did with pace and kept tabs on the handler with regular glances during the remainder of the run, the dog demonstrated its steadiness again by very nicely honouring a single bird that lifted from a flash point.

Second Run - This dog handled the half cheek wind well on its second run and quickly came on point initially out of sight of the handler and guns. The dog remained steady while the handler and guns approached, flushed on command, the covey lifted slightly to the left of the dog but this enthusiastic flushing dog remained steady while a bird was shot which was again collected swiftly and delivered to hand.

A workman like performance giving the dog a well-deserved 1st place.

Water test: Very good

### Tournesol Jinja

First Run - This dog took a minute or so to settle down to a nice pattern on a cheek wind then soon drew onto scent where a bird lifted through no fault of the dog and he was run on. This dog's confidence grew as each minute passed and began running well, the remainder of the run was blank.

Second Run - We decided to walk forward onto fresh ground before starting this dogs run. On our short walk out the dog indicated it potentially had birds while on the lead, we carried on a further 50 yards to start the dogs run where after a short hunt it returned to the previously indicated area and was rewarded with a point on a single bird which was flushed and shot, the dog was steady and found the bird after a short hunt which it delivered very nicely to hand. The dog was hunted on and came on point in a patch of rank heather when a moment later the covey lifted through no fault of the dog. The dog and handler very carefully worked out the remaining rank heather but no further birds were lifted by the dog. This dog opened up and covered it's ground well when away from the hot scent but the remainder of the run was free from any game.

Water test: Good

### Culdrein Annys

This young dog was run on a cheek wind and demonstrated a sensitive nose, soon drawing onto scent, the dog glanced back several times to check that the handler and guns were following on, the dog then roaded in for a considerable distance and was rewarded with a covey lifting and a single bird was shot. The dog did need some handler input to locate the bird which was delivered to hand very nicely. During the remainder of this dogs first and second run it demonstrated style and pace when away from the hot scent left by birds that had previously lifted ahead of the progressing trial. A talented sensitive young dog.

Water test: Very enthusiastic performance

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it and particularly to our hosts Lady Eira Nickson and Mr A. Finlay for their continuing support, the gamekeeping team for understanding what is required for a novice HPR field trial and getting it absolutely perfect. Also thank you to the guns for their impressive accuracy and their kind words after the trial expressing how much they had enjoyed their day shooting over HPRs for the first time. Phil Ross for keeping us all under control and Anne Johnson for freely passing on her wealth of knowledge to the competitors and myself, and we always appreciate the after trial food and refreshments.